



Sustainability Commission – Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee –

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, Apr 25, 2024
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

Attendees: Ken Horton, Charlotte Weigel, Phil Francisco, (arrived ~12:15)

Guest: Brad Moyer, Hingham Climate Action Planning Committee

Minutes:

Started – 12:00pm

- Agenda Item 1: Talk with Brad Moyer about Hingham Climate Action Planning .
 - Brad gave background on how Hingham got to a Climate Action Plan (CAP)
 - Energy Action Committee started in 2010 – created at Town Meeting, goal of decreasing energy use, completed energy audit for Green Communities (GC), reducing energy use in municipal properties via GC was focus
 - In order to make more progress, the broadened the remit to decreasing GHG emissions town-wide, not just energy efficiency
 - Decided needed a separate body to make more progress
 - Wanted to file warrant to establish a Climate Action Committee but Select Board said they needed to do more community outreach first to establish support
 - Created the Climate Action Taskforce (CAT) – as part of town administration open meeting law did not apply
 - CAT met with committees and citizens groups – took about 6 months to complete necessary outreach
 - Then put together warrant for establishing Climate Action Planning Committee (CAPC) consisting of different representatives from Town committees such as Planning Board, Waste, Business Community, Conservation Commission, Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP) Board – 11 members total
 - Timeline:
 - 2021: voted to establish CAPC in town meeting – required Select Board to appoint a member, and for other boards to commit a member to the committee
 - 2022: They hired the consultant
 - 2022: lots of community engagement
 - 2023: July – completed CAP
 - Role of HMLP in CAP
 - Recent turnover in the board members
 - HMLP Board wanted to work towards net zero – was selling RECs to fund initiatives for net zero - used \$80K in REC payments to pay for consultant for CAP
 - There is a lot of good will in the town for HMLP – and the Light Board recognized interest and will of citizens to reduce GHG emissions, based on town meeting votes that favored climate change initiatives, especially when it cost them nothing
 - HMLP also recognizes the need to help residents who do not qualify for MassSave (~50%) of residents so therefore they offer close to the same incentives
 - Goal setting, implementation and tracking of CAP
 - CAP is a living document – aim for net zero in 2040
 - Two components to implementation

1. Sustainability Coordinator – had a grant funded temporary position, and currently waiting for budget to hire this year
 2. Climate Action Committee – includes citizen oversight and holds progress accountable to the town – made up of the members of the Climate Action Planning Committee and the Sustainability Coordinator (who does not have voting rights, but provides input)
- Plan looks for policy levers they can pull to work towards joining Climate Leaders program – what they are working on while waiting for Sustainability Coordinator
 - 1st part of plan includes robust education component – for example creating “This Old House”-style videos across homes from different eras to give residents models to use for home decarbonization
 - For planning, they think in 5 year increments and they plan to update in another year or more
 - Advice for establishing importance of CAP at governance level
 - Keep records of how many people reached and engaged at different events and through different channels
 - Agenda Item 2: Any other business
 - No other business

Next Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee meeting: TBD

Respectfully submitted,

- **Charlotte Weigel** Sustainability Commission Member

Minutes approved by Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee, May, 30, 2024.